

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8, 12, 14 and 29 are pending. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 15-28 and 30-31 have been cancelled.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4 and 7 Under §102

Claims 1-2, 4, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,823,549 (Morgan). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

2. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 9 and 13 Under §102

Claims 1, 3-4, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,312,121 (Chapman). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

3. Rejection of Claims 24, 27, 28 Under §102

Claims 24, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,698,771 (Bergeron). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

4. Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6 Under §103

Claims 1, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. RE37,350 (Stephan) in view of U.S. 6,886,703 (Bonner). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

5. Rejection of Claim 5 Under §103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,823,549 (Morgan) in view of U.S. 2,707,351 (Walker). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

6. Rejection of Claim 10 Under §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,312,121 (Chapman) in view of U.S. 6,101,678 (Malloy). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

7. Rejection of Claim 11 Under §103

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,312,121 (Chapman) in view of U.S. 6,101,678 (Malloy) and U.S. 2,962,854 (Jepson). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

8. Rejection of Claim 15 Under §103

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,312,121 (Chapman) in view of U.S. 6,371,496 (Balolia). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

9. Rejection of Claim 16 Under §103

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,312,121 (Chapman) in view of U.S. 5,136,751 (Coyne). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

10. Rejection of Claims 17 and 21-23 Under §103

Claims 17 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,004,255 (Briggs) in view of U.S. 2,707,351 (Walker). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, these claims have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

11. Rejection of Claim 18 Under §103

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,209,891 (Herrmann). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

12. Rejection of Claim 19 Under §103

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,209,891 (Herrmann) in view of U.S. 5,752,543 (Groening). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

13. Rejection of Claim 20 Under §103

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,209,891 (Herrmann) in view of U.S. 5,752,543 (Groening) and U.S. 6,345,828 (Pool). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

14. Rejection of Claim 25 Under §103

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,698,771 (Bergeron) in view of U.S. 6,101,678 (Malloy). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

15. Rejection of Claim 26 Under §103

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,698,771 (Bergeron) in view of U.S. 6,101,678 (Malloy) and U.S. 2,962,854 (Jepson). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite

the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

16. Rejection of Claim 30 Under §103

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of U.S. 6,209,891 (Herrmann), U.S. 2,707,351 (Walker), U.S. 6,695,326 (Morrow) and U.S. 6,698,771 (Bergeron), in view of U.S. 6,371,496 (Balolia). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

17. Rejection of Claim 31 Under §103

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of U.S. 6,209,891 (Herrmann), U.S. 2,707,351 (Walker), U.S. 6,695,326 (Morrow) and U.S. 6,698,771 (Bergeron), in view of U.S. 5,136,751 (Coyne). While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, this claim has been cancelled to expedite the issuance of this case, thus rendering this rejection moot. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

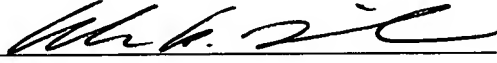
18. Allowed Claims

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of 8, 12, 14 and 29 .

Now that all the rejected claims have been cancelled, it is respectfully submitted that the case is in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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